



**Neighborhood Economic Development
Advocacy Project**

www.nedap.org

NEDAP's Mission

- To promote community economic justice
- To eliminate discriminatory economic practices that harm communities and perpetuate inequality and poverty

Immigrant Financial Justice Project

MAJOR FINDINGS - NYC

- Strong desire among immigrants to tap into financial services
- Barriers: costs, documentation, language, misinformation, concerns re IRS/ICE
- Lack of access = costly/unsafe arrangements
- Immigrants targeted for predatory loans
- Financial access linked to safety, worker rights, public benefits access...

Example:

Truth in Lending Disclosure

2/28 Interest-Only ARM

Type of Loan

ADDRESS

CITY STATE / ZIP

PROPERTY

STATEN ISLAND, NY 10312

ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE The cost of your credit as a yearly rate.	FINANCE CHARGE The dollar amount the credit will cost you.	Amount Financed The amount of credit provided to you or on your behalf.
12.566 %	\$ 1,160,881.10	\$ 381,567.46

Reasons for not having account

1. Not enough money/Can't afford – 26%
2. Unable to meet ID requirements – 23%
3. Said they did not need/want one – 21%

Of those without accounts:

- **58% never tried to open account**
- **26% had account in past**
- **17% tried, but were turned down**

(NYC Immigrant Financial Justice Network survey findings – 2006)

EXPANDING ACCESS

- Flexible ID Requirements
 - One form of government-issued ID
 - Consular IDs (e.g. *matrícula consular*)
 - Introductory letter from CBOs
 - Organizational IDs
 - Individual Taxpayer Identification Number

Documents held by respondents

■ Passport	82%
■ Birth certificate	45%
■ Driver's license	42%
■ Voter card	19%
■ ITIN	17%
■ Consular ID	13%

(NYC Immigrant Financial Justice Network surveys – 2006)

EXPANDING ACCESS (cont'd)

- Low and transparent costs
- Consistent policies & procedures
- Tailored financial education
- Tax/ITIN assistance
- Credit-builder loans
- Clarity re PATRIOT ACT v. IRS rules
- Regulatory consistency